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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-2. (canceled)

3-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A coated machine tool comprising a multilayer wear resistant coating applied to a base material of said machine tool, said coating comprising a relatively hard underlayer and a chemically inert metal rare earth oxide overlayer, wherein:

 said relatively hard underlayer is formed over said base material of said machine tool and comprises at least two layers;

 one of said layers of said underlayer comprises a metal and is formed over said base material;

 another of said layers of said underlayer comprises a metal nitride, metal carbide, or metal carbo-nitride and is formed over said metal layer;

 said metal oxide overlayer is formed of a metal oxide over said underlayer; and

 said metal oxide overlayer is substantially chemically inert with respect to comprises a rare earth oxide overlayer that exhibits positive free energies of reaction with titanium.

20. (Canceled)

21. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of scandium

22. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of lanthanum.

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23. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of yttrium.

24. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of zirconium.

25. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of hafnium.

26. (currently amended) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 19 wherein said metal rare earth oxide comprises an oxide of niobium.

Claims 27-45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (previously presented) A coated machine tool as claimed in claim 46 comprising a multilayer wear resistant coating for application to a base material of said machine tool, said coating comprising a relatively hard underlayer, an yttrium oxide overlayer, and an interlayer between said underlayer and said overlayer, wherein:

said relatively hard underlayer is formed over said base material of said machine tool;
said metal oxide overlayer comprises an oxide of a first metal and is formed over said interlayer;

said interlayer comprises first and second components;
said first component of said interlayer comprises said first metal;
relative proportions of said first and second components of said interlayer are graded across said interlayer such that a quantity of said first metal in said interlayer increases from a side of said interlayer adjacent to said underlayer to a side of said interlayer adjacent to said overlayer;

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 said metal-oxide overlayer comprises an yttrium oxide overlayer exhibits positive free energies of reaction with titanium;

 said first component of said interlayer comprises yttrium; and

 a quantity of said yttrium in said interlayer increases from a side of said interlayer adjacent to said underlayer to a side of said interlayer adjacent to said overlayer.